

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated August 23, 2007, claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0115480 (McDysan).

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the selection of a logical group of VPN tunnels from among plural logical groups of VPN tunnels according to a result of classifying a received packet based on at least one classification criterion associated with the packet.

McDysan does not disclose the subject matter of amended claim 1. As depicted in Fig. 4 of McDysan, a packet can be forwarded over an IP VPN network 44 or a non-VPN best effort IP network 46. However, there is no teaching anywhere in McDysan of selecting a logical group from among **plural logical groups of VPN tunnels** according to a result of classifying a received packet. The focus of McDysan is to give higher priority to VPN traffic than to non-VPN traffic when allocating access link capacity. McDysan, ¶¶ [0027], [0031].

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by McDysan.

Amended independent claims 8 and 9 are similarly allowable over McDysan.

Dependent claims, including newly added dependent claims 14-26, are allowable for at least the same reasons as corresponding independent claims.

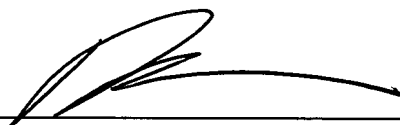
Claims 10-13 have been cancelled, without prejudice, to render the rejection of those claims moot.

Allowance of all claims is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (NRT.0194US).

Respectfully submitted,

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